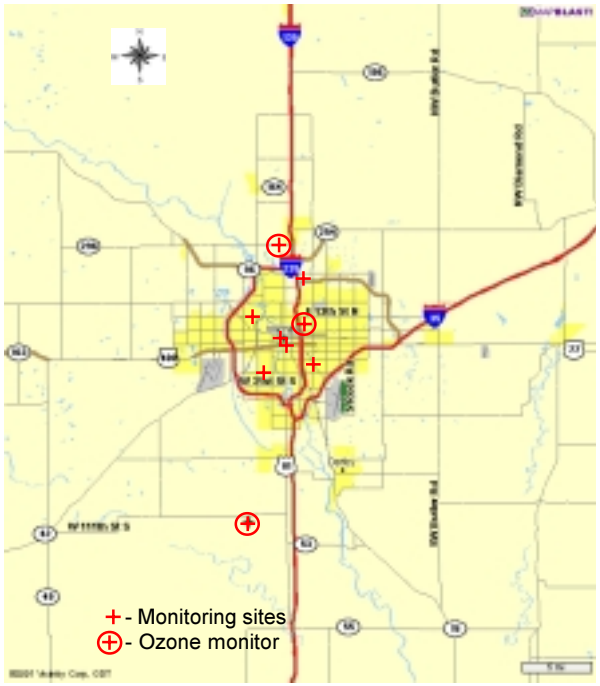
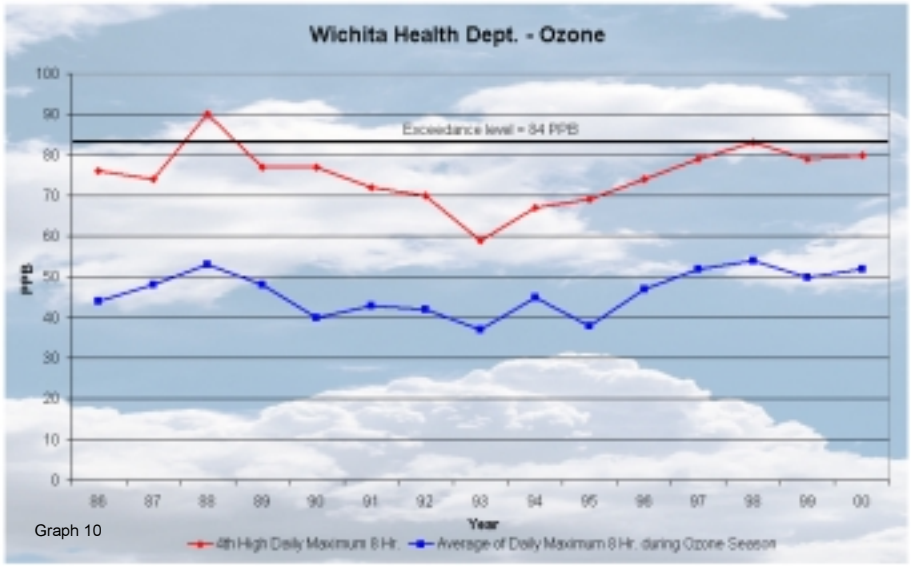
Wichita Ozone

The Wichita-Sedgwick County area has been experiencing a moderate increase in monitored levels of ozone over the past decade. While the levels rarely approached the 1-hour ozone standard of 120 parts per billion, the monitoring results are cause for concern when compared to the new 8-hour ozone standard of 80 parts per billion. Graph 10, on page 27, shows the ambient ozone monitoring trends for the monitoring site located at the Health Department. Additional monitoring sites are located south of Wichita at Peck and north at Park City (Graph 11, page 27).



The graph shows the ozone values expressed in the form of the standard used to determine an exceedance, as well as the average of the daily maximums during the ozone season. The first set of values are important in evaluating how the area is doing in regard to attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standard. The latter values are better indicators of how severe the ozone season was in a given year. The 8-hour values for the Wichita Health Department monitor for the last three years show how close Wichita is to exceeding the 8-hour standard once the remaining legal issues surrounding the standard are resolved.

When EPA issued the 8-hour standard in July of 1997, local officials in Wichita-Sedgwick County recognized the need to take a proactive stance and agreed to participate in an EPA program known as the Voluntary Ozone Reduction Consortium. The purpose of the program is to develop voluntary ozone reduction strategies to attempt to stop the upward trend in ozone values for those cities across the country with ozone trends similar to those in Wichita. The social and economic impacts of an ozone nonattainment designation for a city like Wichita would be severe. An implementation plan would be developed for the area addressing issues such as: additional regulations to provide for emission reductions from point sources; mobile source emission reductions; improving the emissions inventory of all air pollution sources; and, ensuring



Graph 10

What Can I Do?

Here's how you can help protect clean air in Kansas.

At The Service Station.....

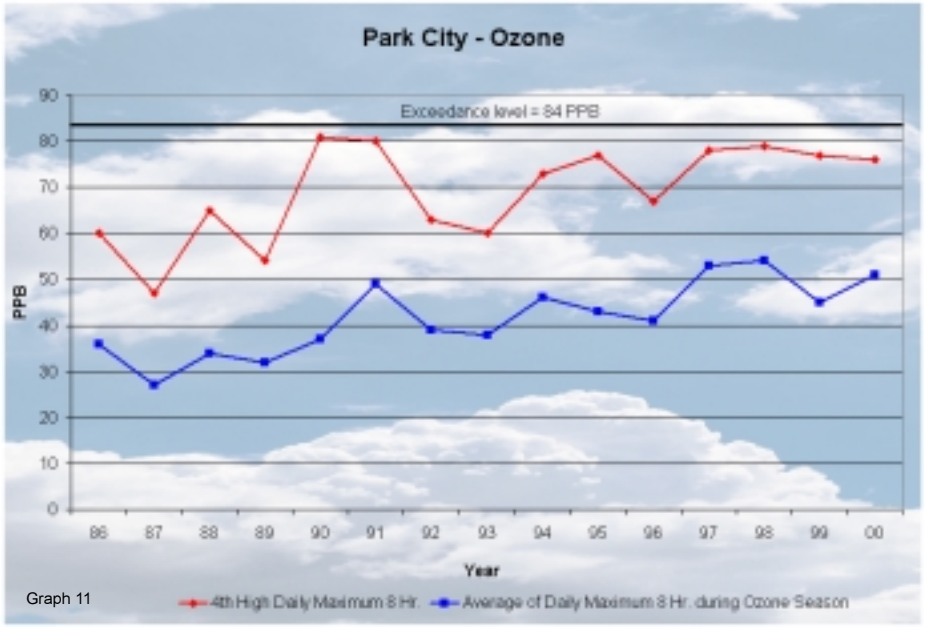
- Avoid spills to reduce gas fumes.
- Don't "top off" your gas tank.
- Tighten your car gas cap.
- Wait until evening to fill your car with gas.
- In summer, use plain water to clean your windshield.

At Play.....

- Plan activities that don't require motors or gasoline. Hike, bike, skate, swim, canoe, sail, golf, or play tennis and team sports.
- Keep engines tuned in boats and other recreational vehicles.

that the transportation plan conforms with the air quality improvement plan.

In 1999, local officials formed a work group of individuals representing industry, government, education and the public to address the problem. Much of the first year was spent educating group participants about ozone formation, monitoring and potential reduction strategies. In 2000, a report recommending ozone education and control strategies has been prepared for submission to the governing body. In addition, a contractor has been selected to conduct an emissions inventory for area and mobile sources to better understand the sources of ozone precursors in the county and to develop a baseline against which reductions can be measured. In addition, local officials will be working to educate the public and small businesses about the role they play in ozone formation and actions that can reduce emissions of ozone precursors.



Graph 11

Tailpipe exhaust is not always the greatest source of vehicle emissions? a. true b. false